

inomed devices driving research forward:

Testing new methods of maintaining sexual functions in prostate surgery

Prostate cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed malignancies affecting men. Although the post-surgical survival rate is very high, these surgical interventions are associated with an increased risk of postoperative damage. About 12 to 83 percent of patients suffer incontinence and erectile dysfunction after prostatectomy. This can mean a significantly impaired quality of life for those affected. A new nerve sparing method of preventing such postoperative impairments using inomed devices has been successfully trialled in a study* by a collaboration of the Clinical Neurophysiology Department of the Hospital Ramón y Cajal in Madrid, Spain, with the help of Dr. Jaime Lopez from neurological Sciences and Neurosurgery in Stanford, USA and the Urology Department, Hospital Ramón y Cajal in Madrid, Spain.

Prevention of postoperative damage by intraoperative neuromonitoring

Existing research suggests that the prevention of postoperative damage depends on a variety of factors; These include the surgical procedure. The research study involved successful intraoperative stimulation in 12 prostate cancer patients aimed at preserving the nerves. Differences compared to previous research projects involved the type of probe and duration of stimulation. An inomed stimulation probe was used for the first time. A blood pressure increase in the sexual organ was regarded as a study success. This reaction was measured in 91.6 percent of the test persons. The study therefore shows the possibility of intraoperatively controlling erectility, an important step towards identifying and protecting the nerves in prostate surgery.

Study achieves success and shows potential for increasing patient quality of life

To stimulate the nerves, an inomed ISIS neurostimulator was used, while the change in pressure was measured and the nerves were monitored with an inomed ISIS IOM system. The aim of the study was to extend the use of existing methods to this new area of application. It was also to be demonstrated that the neurophysiological method delivers consistent and measurable changes in pressure. Because of the small study population, we are unable to generalise the validity, especially regarding how the complication rate can thereby be reduced. The parameters for optimal electrical stimulation, as well as the intensity and duration need to be further optimized.

Nevertheless, the successful use of the German patented pIOM® technology of inomed was recorded as the study result.

Further research into the method offers extremely promising prospects.

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Further information: www.inomed.de

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***Novel Mapping Method for the Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring of Sexual Function During Prostate Surgery**

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inomed develops, produces and distributes medical technology systems in the fields of intraoperative neuromonitoring, functional neurosurgery and pain therapy. For more than 25 years, inomed systems have been helping to improve treatments and increase patient safety. inomed currently has 171 employees at its location in Emmendingen.

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